



Youth Bureau Chronicle



Erie County Youth Bureau
810 East Ferry Street
Buffalo, NY 14211

April 2016

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Erie County Youth Board:

- Liza Acanfora
- Zachary Barry
- Kendall Bazinet
- Kelli Blakeley
- David Caywood
- Jeffrey Davis
- Paul Denning
- Peter Johnson
- Susan Lumadue
- Juliana Norton
- Mitchell Nowakowski
- Kathleen O'Brien
- Brian Rochford
- Sheila Schostick
- Ryan Taughrin
- Carolynn Welch

A Letter From the Deputy Commissioner

In the first few months in my new job I have been impressed with the positive work that all of you do for the youth and families of Erie County. All of you see the great need for impactful, life-changing programs for our youth and you are rising to the challenge of meeting these needs. I have had the great fortune of meeting many dedicated and caring people who are making a positive difference in our communities. I have enjoyed hearing about your agencies and the positive work that you are doing.

The Erie County Youth Bureau, Erie County Youth Board and the agencies that we partner with have formed a very good collaborative effort. This collaboration has produced positive outcomes which results in making our communities stronger. We still have much work to do but we are on the right path and we are moving forward.

Through hard work, dedication, working together and having our hearts in the work, we will continue to rise above any challenges and make a positive difference in the lives of the youth and families that we work with.

With appreciation and respect,

Paul Kubala, Deputy Commissioner—Youth Services

A Letter From the Youth Bureau Director

Greetings! Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We are always very pleased and proud to be able to put these stories and news items together to share with our friends and partners. I have Erie County Youth Services Planning Coordinator John Kordrupel, whom I know many of you know well, to thank for this wonderful periodical and I hope you think to thank him as well next time you happen to see him at a meeting or have him on the telephone. THANKS JOHN!

Everyone at the Youth Bureau and Youth Services is very excited about summer and all the amazing programming and youth development opportunities it will bring for the children and young people in Erie County. The Youth Bureau, the Department of Social Services, the County Executive and the Honorable Erie County Legislature are always thrilled to be able to help support high-quality youth development programs during the summer months through our Primetime funding cycle. I am sure after having read many so many excellent proposals and based on my experience in past years that this will be one of the best summers yet for the thousands of kids we serve. I am also thankful to Say Yes Buffalo for their commitment to summer programs in the City of Buffalo and for spending many hours working and coordinating with us to ensure every family who is seeking high-quality summer programs is able to find an agency or site which meets their needs. We are planning a few surprises for summer that we would love to have your agency and the kids you serve participate in which I am very eager to share in the near future. Although it might not seem like it right now summer will come and I know I can't wait.

Stay tuned!

Ben Hilligas, Youth Bureau Director

Youth Board Spotlights Citizens Making A Difference In the Lives of Erie County Youth

◇ Sheila Schostick

AVP Project Manager - PMP, M&T Bank

"I joined the Youth Board to support the many programs and services that benefit the children in our community."

I have a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership from Medaille College and have more than 23 experience in the financial services industry."



◇ Paul Denning

Retired Human Resources Executive

"[My] reasons for joining the Youth Board were to return to involvement in a field that I had worked in early in my career when I was in Human Services, especially Youth Services, which ties in with my other relevant professional experience, namely, as Youth Services Unit Supervisor for the Dutchess County, NY Youth Bureau in the 1970's. It was a juvenile delinquency prevention program in which I was a working supervisor of case workers who counseled youth who were in legal trouble."

I also worked as a drug counselor for Southern Erie County Help Center, working with teens in the streets and at a drop-in center, also in the 1970's. In recent years, I have worked with youth for a church ministry."

◇ Liza Acanfora

Education Grant Representative,
Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES

"Since my current position has me outside of the traditional classroom environment, joining the Youth Board was the perfect opportunity to be involved in the funding and monitoring of youth programming in Erie County."

Site visits and funding interviews are my favorite parts of being on the Board. Site visits give the opportunity to see the funding "in motion." Funding interviews are a time in the grant process where we can have real conversations with organizations applying for funding about their programs and what makes them special/unique."

After-School Network of WNY Spring 2016 Recruitment Fair

Are you in the midst of summer and fall program planning or the never-ending search for qualified staff? Then the ASNWNY "Oh the Places You'll Go" Recruitment Fair is an event you can't afford to miss! The After-School Network of Western New York, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, and Buffalo State College invite you to register for this unique event to be held Saturday, April 30th from 10:00am – 2:00pm @ Buffalo State College's Rockwell Hall.

What makes this fair unique from other recruitment fairs? It is the ONLY local event dedicated for after-school/extended-learning and summer providers that specifically targets students attending local colleges and universities with an interest in the field. Inter-

ested potential candidates are required to pre-register for the event and submit credentials to allow us to "pre-screen" their qualifications.

The event will be conducted in a similar fashion to "speed dating." With each interview lasting approximately 10 minutes, your organization will have the opportunity to interview up to 20 candidates over the course of the event.

Participating agencies will compile a list of specific program staffing needs at the time of registration. This list will be used to create a given organization's interview schedule for the day. Interviews will be a maximum of 10 minutes. At the conclusion of each interview, organizations will determine if the candidate is a good fit. Once the interviewee has met with all

organizations seeking his/her specific skills, s/he will decide which program is the best fit for them. Organizations will have the option of having prospective candidates attend an additional interview at your convenience or offering a position and having applicants complete initial hire paperwork on-site.

There is a registration fee of \$15 for ASNWNY members and \$25 for non-members to cover expenses the day of the event.

If your organization wishes to participate in this event, complete the attached form and email it to ASNWNYRecruitmentFair@gmail.com. Please include "ASNWNY Spring 2016 Recruitment Fair" in the subject/memo line. **Registration closes on April 22nd at 5PM.**

Seneca-Babcock Community Center Receives Huge Boost

The Seneca-Babcock Community Center is the recipient of a huge donation by a doctor who credits much of his success to the same center and the staff who made an impact on his youth.

Dr. Daniel Alexander and his wife recently donated \$1 million to the center, which will help fund the construction of a \$6.1 million, 26,000 square-foot community center to be built not far from where the current building sits. The current site, located at 1168 Seneca Street will not be abandoned but will be converted into a day care facility, food pantry, and workforce development site.

The new community center will be built on the site of the former Buffalo Public School #26. It will feature an expanded computer lab, a kitchen, full-size gym, a recording studio, and a small theater.

The updated community center will also include a multi-purpose outdoor athletic field, a playground, and an outdoor court for additional sporting options.

The current Seneca-Babcock center serves upwards of 300 youth and 120 seniors every week. The upgrades will allow the center to increase both its staff and the number of youth and seniors who are served each week in the South Buffalo community where the center is located.



Urban Christian Ministries: LEGACY & Confidence and Conditioning Programs

In September 2014, Urban Christian Ministries, located at 967 Jefferson Avenue in Buffalo, took two significant steps toward enhancing its youth development program offerings. Under the leadership of Executive Director Zyrus McCormick and the UCM Board of Directors, dozens of youth now benefit on a daily basis by having a safe and enriching place to go after school.

The LEGACY after-school program (which serves school-aged children 5-12) includes a light meal, homework assistance, literacy and math instruction, recreation time, and a bible study. Mentors from Buffalo State College, the University

at Buffalo, and City Honors High School assist youth with these activities under the guidance and direction of UCM staff.

The Confidence and Conditioning program serves teenage boys on a daily basis. This program operates year-round in six-week increments. It developed as a result of what UCM youth indicated was important to them and their development as students and as citizens. The “confidence” piece of the program focuses on leadership skills, respect for themselves and others, and talks from guest speakers on other pertinent topics, to name a few. The “conditioning” piece complements the first piece through fitness and nutrition, as

taught by a leading personal trainer in the City of Buffalo.

With UCM’s renewed focus on the development of the youth of the East side of Buffalo and beyond through these two programs, the staff is confident that the young people who are served will continue to experience a hopeful future, as the dedicated staff and volunteers of the community continue to guide said youth into positive educational and life decisions.



Erie County Youth Services Administration

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ECYB Mission: “To serve youth and families through support of positive youth development programs and juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs that strengthen families and communities.”



[www2.erie.gov/
socialservices](http://www2.erie.gov/socialservices) or search
“Erie County Youth Bureau”

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- ◆ Saturday, April 30th, 10:00AM-2:00PM: After-School Network of Western New York—“Spring Recruitment Fair”, Buffalo State College Rockwell Hall (1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222)
- ◆ Tuesdays (May 3rd-31st), 4:00-6:30PM: Compass House—“Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Training”, Compass House Resource Center (1451 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209)

We welcome submissions of community events at any time, so please consider sending us notices of upcoming events that you believe might be of interest to your colleagues. Thank you!

